



# Mere matters

& so does

West Knoyle



Your community magazine  
Including a guide to local events

**October 2022**







# **MERE LITERARY FESTIVAL 2022** **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

## **Tuesday 11 October**

Time	Event	Venue	Price
4.00 pm	Maggie Mortimer – Maps of Our Spectacular Bodies	URC	£12.50
7.00 pm	Barney Norris - Undercurrent	URC	£10

## **Wednesday 12 October**

2.15 pm	Louise Hare – Miss Aldridge Regrets	URC	£10
4.00 pm	Angela Findlay – In My Grandfather's Shadow	URC	£10
7.00 pm	General Sir Richard Shirreff – War With Russia	URC	Sold out

## **Thursday 13 October**

2.15 pm	James Crowden – Cider Country	St Michaels	£10
4.00 pm	Kate Morgan – Murder, The Biograph	St Michaels	£10
7.00 pm	Natasha Solomons – I, Mona Lisa	St Michaels	£10

## **Friday 14 October**

11.30 am	Sally Page – The Keeper of Stories	URC	£10
2.15 pm	Andrew Hunter Murray - The Sanctuary	URC	£10
4.00 pm	Roger Morgan Grenville – Taking Stock	URC	£10
7.00 pm	Zoe Somerville – The Marsh House	URC	£10

## **Saturday 15 October**

11.00 am	Susanne Masters – Wild Waters	GB	£10
12.30 pm	Hannah Bourne Tayler - Fledgling	GB	£10
2.30 pm	Kate Hughes – Going Zero	GB	£10

## A Ukrainian Summer

The summer that is nearly over has been memorable for so many reasons - the endless blue skies and hot sunshine, the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, and now of course the death of the Queen, and the succession of King Charles III, not to mention the wonderful Carnival. But the sad backdrop of all that has been the continuing war in Ukraine and the ongoing plight of its people.



As I write this, there are some reasons for cautious optimism that the tide is turning in favour of Ukraine, but there is a long way to go as yet, and the tide could easily turn again. Back in February when the shocking news of the Russian invasion hit our screens, and we saw images of panicking refugees crossing the border into Europe, many people felt compelled to act and offer hospitality. After what seemed like a long delay, the Homes for Ukraine Scheme was set up by the government, allowing people to register and take people into their homes. However, it became clear that the onus would be on individual hosts to match themselves up with people applying to come to Britain, and this made it much more daunting for some.



There was an upswell of goodwill in Mere. The Ukrainian flag was flown on the hill and a group of local people offering support or hosting got together and formed a WhatsApp group in order to communicate and co-ordinate assistance. Eventually, 5 family units (as far as we know) arrived in Mere and have all settled in successfully. Mere as a town has really stepped up again. Mere School deserves special mention. They took in two boys during the last few weeks of term and have made amazing efforts to welcome them, find extra classroom assistance for them, and above all have made them feel happy and secure in school. One of them has now joined

an older boy at Gillingham school where they are settling well and making lots of friends. No fewer than three people in Mere are offering the adults free English lessons, an absolute godsend to have these lessons available locally.

Other help given by the Support group has been in the form of transport from the airport and to the Job Centre in Trowbridge, and to holiday activities. There have been trips to the seaside, a bread making day, a children's camp in Semley with other refugees from the area, a week's holiday by the sea and numerous social gatherings. The young women have offered their services to local charity events, and have been warmly received wherever they go. Of course, their main priority is to find work - not easy, as everyone knows, if you have no transport. Fortunately, again, local people have come up trumps. Individuals have taken them on as

domestic cleaners, the Walnut Tree pub has taken them on as chambermaids, a Bath-based contract cleaning company gives them occasional deep-cleaning work, together with a lift to Bath. One works at the Hillbrush factory, and another in one of the food outlets. Most importantly, they are working towards being independent and integrated members of the community. Another was offered a Fellowship to Oxford University and a place for her daughter in a good school and so has moved on. Friendships have been forged and the generosity and kindness of people has been heartwarming. We want to thank everyone who has been involved and welcoming to the guests, from the most generous of offers and donations to the friendly smiles and chats so many of you have given. You have done Mere proud.

Mary Wilson 07550 076240 and Rachael Hansford 07989 470278

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### Mere Surgery - Breast Screening Unit Visit – Salisbury Street Car Park

The Breast Screening Unit will be returning to Mere week commencing 17th October 2022

The Breast Screening Unit provides breast screening every three years for women between the ages of 50 and 71 living within the Southampton & Salisbury area and much of it takes place using Mobile Screening units located within the community.

The Breast Screening Unit will be parked in the Salisbury Street Car park from week beginning 17th October 2022 and will remain there for approximately 5 weeks to complete the screening.

Patients who meet the criteria will be contacted direct by the Breast Screening Unit.

Nearer the time, notices will be displayed and bollards placed where the Unit will be parking. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

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## Mere Town Council

At the September meeting Sandra Catley and Linden Stone were elected to the Council and will join us at the next meeting on October 3rd. Also, at the September meeting we discussed ten planning applications. If you wish to comment on any application, on the agenda, you can do so in the Public Section, at the beginning, when you will have three minutes to do so. You are not able to speak when Councilors are discussing the application. As I have stated before, we are always pleased to see the public at our meetings. If you are unable to attend, contact the Clerk on 01747 860701 and your comments will be read out to the Council.

I am pleased to say that the new car parking area at Duchy Manor is now completed. It has been very sympathetically designed to make parking much easier and safer, especially for the school. We have been informed and in fact have seen for ourselves, that there is a "rabbit problem" on the sports' field on the Duchy site. We shall be taking action to eradicate this problem.

The Council have decided to initiate a Warm Spaces Scheme for Mere and have referred this to our excellent "Resilience Forum" who we expect to hear from shortly.

The Council have also discussed whether, or not, to have an ACV (Asset of Community Value) strategy for Mere. We decided that a strategy wasn't necessary but we agreed that we would consider any such asset that we felt suitable for an ACV as it arose. Residents will recall that the last ACV adopted was The Butt of Sherry.

There is no doubt that the death of HRH Queen Elizabeth has recently been paramount in our thoughts. The London Bridge protocol suddenly became a reality. This required Mere to act in accordance with the protocol following the death of the Queen. This protocol was relevant to the whole country. I would like to thank Councilors, our Clerk and Groundsman for getting together so promptly to comply with this. I was very pleased to attend a Memorial Service, for the Queen, at St. Michael's on 18th September and I have written to the King offering our condolences on behalf of the Council and residents of Mere.

I am sure you are all aware that King Charles has served as the Duke of Cornwall for many years. This dukedom now passes to Prince William, who we hope will be visiting the Duchy Estate in the near future.

*Lesley Traves, Chair, Mere Town Council*

*for information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas etc.*

[lindseywood@merewilts.org](mailto:lindseywood@merewilts.org)  860701  [merewilts.org](http://merewilts.org)



## Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

I found it hard to take in what Mere Town Council chairman Lesley Traves was saying to me on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> of September, The Queen has died. I always had enormous respect for Her Majesty's duty and service to this country. Queen Elizabeth visited Mere in the 1950s, I have a picture of the event, with my cousin John as a small boy and his mum amongst the many welcoming her in The Mere Peace Memorial Recreation Ground. A

t the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of the Queen on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September, General David Leakey gave some 'Reflections of the Life of the Queen'. His address included this anecdote: "The Queen once asked a newly elected Member of Parliament how she liked her new job. The MP responded that she felt that she had little power to help her constituents. The Queen replied understandingly, "Once they find out that you lot can't help them, they all write to me". This made me think of the number of times Councillors such as myself also cannot directly help their electorate, however often councillors can influence decision making and directly help their electorate.

I would like to thank Glen Ings and Mere Town Council staff for all their help with the Union Flag on Castle Hill recently, one morning Glen and myself met on the hill at 6-30am.

The latest news and also to ask questions regarding the future for Ukrainians who have settled in Wiltshire, were or will be discussed depending when this is read, on, Wednesday 28 September at 5:30pm and will be an opportunity for people to find out more information and ask questions on the support available in the county. Latest figures show 2875 households have registered for the Homes for Ukraine scheme and currently 609 sponsors have been matched with 1561 individuals. There have been 344 school places offered with a further 11 applications being processed.

A Wiltshire Council charity cycle-ride took place Thursday 22nd September, to raise funds for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity and Wiltshire's Dorothy House Hospice. 50 riders from Wiltshire Council, along with public sector partners and Landmarc, took part in either a 30-mile route or a 100-mile route around Wiltshire, both starting and finishing at County Hall, Trowbridge.

Highways problems are often top of my agenda. Upper Water Street has been closed for 2 days in late September to survey and clear the drains. The workers on site informed me they had removed build up from inside the drains. Where the



B3092 meets the B3095 at "Gillingham Corner", the white lines are practically non-existent and I have requested they are repainted.

Although Mere suffer many of the traffic problems that other Towns do Country wide, I continue to ask for the best we can have. I travel a reasonable amount to varied destinations, for Council, Post Office meetings and my business, I see parking in places that were not previously used, increasing over the decades. The car is still required especially in rural areas, I am still pursuing public electric vehicle charging points for Mere and a electric car club that could benefit Mere and indeed the villages around, at present both are on track.

I received this message from Wiltshire Council, *"Something to consider August 21 – September 17 you compromised your nightly recharge on 4 days last month by working past midnight. Ensure optimal nightly recharge by protecting the golden sleep time period (12am-5am) from work related activities."*, best I do not comment publicly regarding this message, perhaps no more than "you are being watched". It is eight minutes past midnight at present while I write this.

I reported last month, further fibre broadband is finding itself around the area by at least four broadband infrastructure providers operating or trying to operate in the Mere area. Gigaclear are now installing in Salisbury Street and hope to go live shortly. To contact them, 01865 591 131, [networkbuildcare@gigaclear.com](mailto:networkbuildcare@gigaclear.com),

Have you or someone you know considered fostering? Wiltshire Council still campaign to find more foster carers for children in Wiltshire. Fostering with your local council means all money is spent on frontline services and the child is more likely to be able to stay close to their school, friends and family networks.

Some Post Offices are closing or reducing the branch service around the south west, they provide a social function as well as a service including some banking services for many. I note from information I have from The National Federation of Sub-postmasters (NFSP) more banks are closing in the towns around us or reducing the days they open, for example the Halifax, Warminster on the 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2022, another reason the local Post Offices are required to provide a banking service to those that require it.

To contact me please use [george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk) or 07710441599 I can usually answer quickly.

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George Jeans 📞 07710 441599 [george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk)

### West Knoyle celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

With the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II in her Platinum Jubilee year, it is worthwhile to remember the celebrations the country enjoyed only three months ago at the beginning of June.

Here in West Knoyle the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration started on the Thursday evening with the lighting of a beacon high on the hill at Broadoak Game Farm. Many villagers attended by making the steep climb on foot or they were ferried in 4x4 vehicles. Once at the top, they were greeted with a much-welcomed drink together with the most spectacular view. As the sun went down the beacon was lit and many beacons could be seen across the valley far and near. Thanks to Paul and Nicky, for hosting what was a perfect evening to start celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Then it was all hands on deck to put up marquees outside the Village Hall, and to decorate both inside and outside the Hall with bunting and flags ready for the Village to get together for a Sunday afternoon BBQ. Burgers and hot dogs were on offer followed by a mouth-watering selection of delicious home baked cakes and, of course, the Platinum Pudding - all of which had been kindly donated. During the afternoon people enjoyed playing a variety of games, including boules, quoits and bounce ball where prizes were awarded to the top players. Ice creams were handed out to all, and with several children dashing around in their Fancy Dress costumes it made for a delightful and enjoyable afternoon in which the whole Village could participate.



The event was well attended with over 100 villagers, families and friends. Thanks go to the Social Club Committee and Members and to all the Villagers who helped in making the Queen's Platinum Jubilee such a memorably afternoon.

*Annual Membership to the West Knoyle  
Social Club is only £5 and is open  
Friday 7.30-9.30pm and Sunday 1-3pm.*



Corinne Leonard  07783 157361

Mere Surgery

## FLU CLINICS

Please find details of the Surgery's flu vaccination programme below

**WHERE WILL THE CLINICS BE HELD?**

Mere Surgery

**WHO IS ENTITLED TO THE FLU VACCINATION THIS YEAR?**

Anyone aged over 50

Carers

Pregnant women

Any adult with following conditions:

COPD

Chronic heart disease

Chronic kidney or liver disease

Chronic neurological disease i.e motor neurone

Parkinson's

Learning disability

Diabetes

Weakened immune system due to chemotherapy or auto immune disorders

BMI greater than 40.

**WHEN WILL THE CLINICS BE HELD?****Under 65`s**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October** 8.00 – 10.00

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** 16.00 -17.00

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** 8.00-10.00

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October** 16.00-17.00

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October** 16.00-17.00

**Over 65`s**

<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	<b>14.00-16.00</b>
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October</b>	14.00-16.00
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October</b>	14.00-16.00
<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October</b>	14.00-16.00
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October</b>	10.30-12.30
<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October</b>	14.00-16.00
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October</b>	14.00-16.00
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October</b>	14.00-16.00
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b>	14.00-16.00
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October</b>	14.00-16.00
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October</b>	10.30-12.30

**HOW TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT**

Anyone with a mobile phone registered with the surgery to accept text messages will be sent a text message which will contain a unique link to book an appointment

Appointments may also be booked by telephoning the surgery on 01747 860001

**VACCINATIONS**

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF VACCINE, ONE FOR UNDER 65's AND ONE FOR OVER 65's


**CHILDREN'S FLU CLINICS**

Will be available at the end of October we are awaiting delivery dates so please check updates on our website.

IF YOU NOT WISH TO HAVE A FLU VACCINATION THIS YEAR, PLEASE LET THE SURGERY KNOW SO WE DON'T SEND YOU REMINDERS.

Please bear in mind we are reliant on the vaccinations arriving as planned, so please check our website for any updates.

**Thinking of Advertising in Mere Matters?**

To find out the costs or to book an advert, please contact Jane Kennedy directly by phone or email. [jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com)  860450





### Mere Gardening Club

Our members enjoyed a trip to Wisley in September and the weather kept fine too which was a bonus.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 14th October, 19.30pm** at the Grove Building. The speaker will be from the regeneration trust. New members welcome along with visitors for a small charge of £3.00.

Our meeting in November will be looking at flower arrangements for Christmas with one of our members, Penny Allen who ran her own florist shop for many years.


Rose Heesom  07791 559674 [roseheesom@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:roseheesom@yahoo.co.uk)  
 [meregardenclub.org.uk](http://meregardenclub.org.uk)

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### Mere Theatre Club

We've found that theatres book up earlier and earlier, so to beat the rush we are now booking up for the winter 2023 period, January to March. If you would like to join us you'll have to be quick, as bookings close on October 7th.

If you'd like something new to look forward to, contact me, details below.

Madelaine Morris  861833 [madsmorris@gmail.com](mailto:madsmorris@gmail.com)

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## St Michaels

Well life at St, Michael's is continuing. The lack of a vicar is not stopping the congregation from worshipping, growing and putting on activities. Two new churchwardens, Elizabeth Howden and Richard Wilson, have now been legally appointed and changes are happening.

A new baby and toddler group is being started in the Grove building on a Tuesday morning from 20th September, 9.30-11am. Toys have been acquired, coffee machines purchased, and a warm welcome will be made to everyone.

Every two - three weeks a churchwarden and some parishioners are going out in cars for coffee and visiting a local church where we can chat, share stories, and be inspired by each other. This is open to anyone who wishes to sign up. So far visits have been made to Queen Camel, Sturminster Newton, Wilton and Wells to name some of the places we have been. It is just lovely.

Over the summer we organised, and hosted in the church, the Great Mere Bake Off when Mere was filled with the aroma of cakes being baked and decorated. There was a Black Forest Gateau, a cake shaped like one of the goats from Castle Hill, and an amazing looking lemon cake. Judges came from the Lavender Blue Bakery in Gillingham and Angel Lane Tea Rooms in Mere. A lovely afternoon was spent in the church drinking tea, eating cake, and partaking in a raffle while the judges decided a winner. Congratulations went to Ellie Portnell who was announced as Mere's Star Baker with an Eton Mess inspired sponge. It looked divine.

A Quiet Day was organised, and held at the end of August, at Hilfield Friary near Dorchester. Members spent a peaceful day in the safe, quiet environment in thought and prayer alongside Brother Malcolm. People returned to Mere with their batteries recharged and are looking forward to another visit next year.

A request has been put out to the town for blankets to be donated to ensure that anyone who is cold this winter will be able to wrap something over their knees and or put it on their bed. The pile is growing, and we are hoping to start handing them out in October and November. Please phone Elizabeth on 863424 if you would like one.

The web page is in the process of being redesigned by one of our parishioners, David Bell, who is a professional web designer. We are grateful for his help with this, and it looks great. Please look at the website and let us know your thoughts.

Plans for October include a Harvest Service on the 2nd at 10.30am and Harvest lunch at 12pm on 9th October at the Grove Building. Only £5 for the lunch and bring a pudding to share.

If you would like to come on a Sunday morning at 8am or 10.30am you would be made so welcome. It is an opportunity to be with others , pray, sing, reflect and join in with chat after the service whilst having a cup of coffee (10.30am service for refreshments). Everyone is welcome and it would be so nice to see you.

Take care and bless you in all you do,

*Elizabeth Howden [elizabethhowden44@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethhowden44@gmail.com)*

### Mere Social Club – Dates for the diary

#### **Sat. 29<sup>th</sup> October.**

Halloween Night. Dancing to Live Band 45 RPM

Fancy Dress and Pumpkin Competition. Everyone Welcome.

#### **Sat. 19<sup>th</sup> November.**

Table Top Sale 10am till 1 pm Only £5 per table

Open to everyone to sell their items, crafts, Xmas Gifts etc.

*Christina Miles [flowjo123@gmail.com](mailto:flowjo123@gmail.com)*

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### Mere Bridge Club

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the word 'bridge' derives from 'biritch', otherwise known as 'Russian Whist', with the oldest reference to the rules of 'bridge' dated in 1886. Nowadays, strictly speaking it is called 'contract bridge', with 'rubber bridge' referring to an informal game.

Mere Bridge Club meets every Thursday afternoon (2-4.30 pm) in the Lecture Hall; it's a small, sociable group that welcomes new members, covering an age-span between 65-89 (who is the sharpest !), says David Coulter.

'I learned to play at 17 and had not played again until I joined the club a couple of years ago; on my first afternoon I was thrashed by two women aged 85 and 92', says David.

Recent research shows that 'bridge' really increases a general sense of well-being in that it keeps the brain sharp, offers social contact in a structured way and last but not least, it is fun to play - even if you lose !

*David Coulter  07977 048395*

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### St Michaels

St Michael the Archangel Church is organising a Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Fair on **December 3rd**. We are asking all businesses, social groups, families and individuals to decorate a tree, large or small, and bring for display, to the church on Friday 2nd December ready for the Saturday event.

In the Grove Building we will be holding a Christmas Fair where people can hire a table, for £10, and sell their craft or produce items raising some money for themselves in the lead up to Christmas.

*Refreshments will be provided by the church.*

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## Diary Dates (Recurring events are first shown in **Bold** then in **Blue**).

### Venue Key for Diary :

**AYP** - Andy Young  
**CP** - Main Car Park  
**Drs** - Surgery

**GB** - Grove Building  
**L** - Lecture Hall  
**Lib** - Library

**MSC** - Social Club  
**RMC** - Castle St Car Park  
**StM** - St Michaels Church

**URC** - United Ref Church  
**WT** - Walnut Tree Inn

1	Sat	10:30	<b>Coffee Morning</b> (every Sat)	URC
2	Sun			
3	Mon	09:30 12:30 17:45 18:00	<b>Tiddlers and Toddlers</b> (every Mon) <b>Baby Yoga</b> (every Mon) Yoga with Claire <b>Scouting</b> (every Mon)	L GB L GB
4	Tues	08:00 09:00 13:00 18:20 19:30 19:30	Foot Clinic <b>Little Angels</b> (every Tues) <b>Pilates (JL)</b> (every Tues) <b>Zumba</b> (every Tues) History Society <b>MADS Rehearsal</b> (every Tues)	GB GB GB L GB L
5	Wed	09:30 12:45 14:45 18:00	<b>Tai-Chi</b> (every Weds) <b>Stretch Class</b> (every Weds) <b>Stretch Class</b> (every Weds) <b>Karate</b> (every Weds)	GB L L L
			<i>Railway Modellers</i>	
6	Thurs	10:00 14:00 14:00 17:00 19:30	<b>Art Group</b> (every Thurs) <b>Quilters</b> (every Thurs) <b>Bridge</b> (every Thurs) Girlguiding (every Thurs) <b>MADS Rehearsals</b> (every Thurs)	GB GB L GB L
			<i>Art, Bridge,,</i>	
7	Fri	13:45 18:30	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b> (14:00 start. Every Fri) Litfest Party	GB GB
			<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
8	Sat	10:00	Read Easy	1 Boar Street
			<i>Coffee Morning</i>	
9	Sun			
10	Mon	17:45	Yoga with Claire	L
			<i>Tiddlers &amp; Toddlers, Yoga, Scouting</i>	
11	Tues	10:30 14:30	Historical Society Mothers Union	GB GB
			<i>MADS Rehearsal, Little Angels, Zumba, MADS</i>	
12	Wed	14:00 19:30	Fitness and Friendship Gardening Club	GB GB
			<i>Tai-Chi, Stretch, Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	
13	Thurs	14:00	<i>Diabetes Prevention</i>	L
			<i>MADS, Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Girlguiding</i>	
14	Fri	10:00 19:00	Merely Women Moviola <i>Phantom of the Opera</i>	GB L
			<i>Dup Bridge</i>	



15	Sat	19:00	Oasis Carnival Club Bingo <i>Coffee Morning</i>	L
16	Sun			
17	Mon	14:00	Short Walk <i>Tiddlers &amp; Toddlers, Baby Yoga, Scouting</i>	CP
18	Tues	08:00	Foot Clinic <i>MADS Rehearsal, Little Angels, Zumba, MADS</i>	GB
19	Wed		<i>Karate, Stretch, Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	
20	Thurs		<i>MADS, Art, Quilters, Girlguiding, Rubber Bridge</i>	
21	Fri		<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
22	Sat	Fair Trade Stall	Coffee Morning <i>Coffee Morning</i>	URC
23	Sun		Fair Trade Stall after morning service	StM
24	Mon		<i>Baby Yoga</i>	
25	Tues		<i>MADS Rehearsal, Little Angels, Zumba, MADS</i>	
26	Wed	09:00 14:00 14:00	Mere Jelly @ Visit Hillbrush Fitness and Friendship Penny Bank Writers <i>Tai-Chi, Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	GB L
27	Thurs		<i>MADS, Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Girlguiding</i>	
28	Fri	10:00	Merely Women <i>Dup Bridge</i>	GB
29	Sat	Evening	Halloween Night	MSC
30	Sun			
31	Mon		<i>Yoga</i>	

*Times, events and venues shown cannot be guaranteed as being correct*

### Shreen Harmony

Just a few words to say we are back meeting every Thursday at 7.30 p.m. in The United Reformed Church. We have already welcomed some new members and we are enjoying the start of the term. If you think it might be for you then come along one evening and see. There is no audition, just a love of singing.

We are currently learning this year's Eurovision Song Contest winner from Ukraine. A great lively number to start with. Hope to see you on a Thursday evening.

*Sandra Fisher* 📞 861980

## V3NTURE

Charles, (from Mere), Rob and Rob are looking to become the first military trio to row any ocean when they cross the Atlantic in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge. The epic race will take place in December 2024 and take up to 50 days. The trio met at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and are now in the thick of fundraising and training for the 3,000 mile ocean crossing. This summer, they conducted a 24 hour row on a Concept II rower at Waterloo station to promote their brand, Team V3nture, and raised over £4,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support. If you would like to support, get involved or find out more please touch base with Charles on 07815 516917 or [teamv3nture@gmail.com](mailto:teamv3nture@gmail.com).



### Removal of ITV Streaming on Humax and some other boxes

ITV are about to remove their broadcasting hub services from FreeSat and FreeView boxes. So, if you are a devotee of ITV programs you will have to get another box or stream the service over the internet via a computer. This is all because ITV are making enhancements to their broadcasts and older style 'boxes' cannot manage the new format.

*Richard Jefferies. Ed.*

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### Mere Jelly

The Mere Jelly is an informal co-working event where freelancers, home workers and small/micro business owners bring their laptop or other work and work, chat and collaborate with other small business owners. We meet on the last Wednesday of the month and the Visit Hillbrush Cafe very kindly provides us with space, access to their internet and free parking. Tea, coffee, breakfast and lunch is available if you would like. We are there from 9am to 12 noon, and you are welcome to join us for the whole morning or just drop in for a chat if you like! We meet in **October on Wednesday 26th.**



*Jenni Bell ☎ 860400*

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### Mere Museum

Our current exhibitions on Schools in Mere will now run to the end of November. The new exhibition will start from 2nd December when we will be holding a special preview evening for Friends of the Museum. Please do look out for the Friends of the Museum committees' posters and details.

We will be celebrating 50 years of the Museum in Mere and looking back at some amazing events which have helped to shape Mere.

We are currently awaiting a new broadband supplier at the Museum so please contact me direct if you have any enquiries or items for the museum.

*Rose Heesom 📞 07791 559 674 [meremuseum@btinternet.com](mailto:meremuseum@btinternet.com)*

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### Mere Art Group

The Art Group has been active planning the Creative Mere function of late, covering - lay-out, items and exhibit presentations.

Attendance at our 10.00 to 12.00 sessions on Thursdays in The Grove Building has been good. Anyone wishing to join us is most welcome. Our sessions are based on Pay-As-You-Go principles, and the first session is free. A great atmosphere with coffee and tea and biscuits - all included for £2.50 a session. Give it a go!

This month's work is by Aubrey Colman - and brings to mind a rush home after a long, hot Summer!



*Helge Brock* [helgewallenbrock@gmail.com](mailto:helgewallenbrock@gmail.com)

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### Mere School

Save the date – Free fireworks in Mere!

A fantastic community fireworks event will be taking place at **Mere School** on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November**.

Formerly held at the Coppleridge Inn, Motcombe, this free display is organised by Adam and sponsored by Bloomfield & Associates – but please donate generously to help raise funds for Mere School.

There will be a barbecue, pizza van and fish & chips, as well as a bar and mulled wine. There will also be cakes, sweets and children's drinks, and glow sticks to purchase.

Gates open at 5.30pm, with fireworks at 6.30pm.

Please note there is no parking on site. We expect large numbers of people, so please walk/car share where possible and park considerately.

For pet owners, the RSPCA gives advice about simple measures you can take to make fireworks less stressful. See

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/general/fireworks>

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### Mere Rivers Group Quarterly Nature Notes (covering Oct - Dec)

Having stated in our last Nature Notes that we hoped the weather would be kind to us this summer, it is hard to decide whether it was kind or cruel. Certainly we had a very sunny one but it was too dry and too hot for our wildlife. People who have ponds in their gardens or bird baths were providing a vital lifeline to birds, insects, and mammals such as hedgehogs. Those of us who have wild areas including long grass, hedges and dense flower planting will have provided food and shade. As stated in our September article on the state of our streams, although they were very low they did continue to flow enabling the fish, invertebrates, mammals and insects to survive the drought.

Thank goodness the rain finally arrived in September. Anyone who went walking, just after the rain, would have smelt the wonderful freshness in the air as the soil soaked up the water. It has been wonderful to see the grass become green again and other plants put on a growth spurt.

Now it is October and autumn is here. We're sure everyone will have noticed what a bumper year it is for fruit, berries and nuts, in fact the Woodland Trust has said this will be a Mast year, which is the collective term for a bumper year for nuts and berries. This is brilliant news for our wildlife after such a bad summer. It means there will be plenty of food for the migrating thrushes, i.e. fieldfares and redwings when they arrive later in the season. Other birds returning to us after breeding are kingfishers and little egrets so look out for them when you are walking along our streams. Finally check the ivy flowers and see what insects have been attracted to its pollen. You are likely to see butterflies, including the red admiral, bees and hover flies all taking the opportunity to have a feast before winter sets in.

Autumn is a wonderful time of year for colour and wildlife activity so we hope you have the time to get out and enjoy it, both along our streams and in our surrounding countryside.

*Lynne Bann:  860174*

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### Mere Library Rhyme Time

Come along and join our Fun, Friendly Rhyme Time for Babies and Toddlers.

Held at Mere Library every Friday Morning 10-10.30 am

Lovely session filled with Rhymes and songs

*For Further Information please contact the library on  860546.*

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## Mere Carnival 2022

The Committee would like to thank all of the participants and spectators for what we felt was a joyful and respectful carnival, with a particular thank you to Hot Rock Carnival Club who broke into their routine to stop and play the National Anthem in the Square.

We had nearly £900 in donations along the route (including 5732 pennies as well as other coins) from the spectators. Thank you to all our collectors and a special mention for: Jaki who collected over £100; Mary who collected over £90 and Carnival Royals Owain, Lilith, Holly, Kenan and Sarah.

Our Golden Ticket prize of a £1000 was won by Melanie Clarke, who bought her ticket at The Walnut Tree and is the parent of one of this year's Carnival Royals. It costs over £2000 to put on Mere Carnival and we are grateful to our sponsors who help with the costs: Smart Step, Jeans Electrical, FJ Chalke, Sprout & Flower, SL Autos, The Butt of Sherry, Yapps, Hayley's Hair Design, Walton Antiques, Mere Garage, Mere Osteopathy, Mere Social Club, The Walnut Tree.

We shall be making donations to several local groups in October.

No Carnival is complete without the participants and this year our judges awarded the following prizes:

### **Mere Carnival 2022 Procession Awards**

<i>Class 2</i>	<i>Tableaux</i>	<i>The Philip Coward Cup</i>
1	32 Fathoms Deep	Magnum Carnival Club
<i>Class 3</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>The Walton Challenge Cup</i>
1	Rusty's	Kipling Carnival Club
<i>Class 5</i>	<i>Junior Float</i>	<i>Caroline Young Memorial</i>
<i>Cup</i>		
1	Luck of the Irish	Rubalo CC
<i>Class 6</i>	<i>Hand truck/trailer/van</i>	<i>Walker Family Cup</i>
1	Oasis	Oasis Carnival Club
<i>Class 7</i>	<i>Walking single (16 years +)</i>	<i>Mere Fabrication Cup</i>
1	Phantom	Stan Collis (ABC)
<i>Class 8</i>	<i>Walking group (16 years +)</i>	<i>Sonia Cassell Cup</i>
1	Ice Aged	Dee Gees CC
<i>Class 9</i>	<i>Walking single (under 16)</i>	<i>Herbert Cup</i>
1	Through the eye of the tiger	Lola-Sofia Plummer
<i>Class 10</i>	<i>Walking group (under 16)</i>	<i>Mere Challenge Cup</i>
1	Tea for Two	Cheeky Monkeys JCC
<i>Class 2-6</i>	<i>Best Costume</i>	<i>Keysley Cup</i>
1	32 Fathoms Deep	Magnum Carnival Club

<i>Class 2-6</i>	<i>Best Music</i>	<i>Nurden-Read Carnival Cup</i>
1	Rusty's	Kipling Carnival Club
<i>Class 3-6</i>	<i>Best Routine</i>	<i>Hamilton Litesat Cup</i>
1	Rusty's	Kipling Carnival Club
<i>Class 2-6</i>	<i>Best Dressed Driver</i>	<i>Den McCann Award</i>
1	32 Fathoms Deep	Magnum Carnival Club
<i>Class 2-5</i>	<i>Ground Crew Award</i>	<i>Cake Family Shield</i>
1	Rusty's	Kipling Carnival Club
<i>Class 7-10</i>	<i>Best Walking</i>	<i>Jeans Hoover Cup</i>
1	Ice Aged	Dee Gees CC
<i>Class 9-10</i>	<i>Best Youth</i>	<i>Andy Young Memorial Cup</i>
1	Through the eye of the tiger	Lola-Sofia Plummer
<i>Class 7-10</i>	<i>Best Costume - Walking</i>	<i>Mary Chalke Memorial Cup</i>
1	Ice Aged	Dee Gees CC
<i>Spirit of Carnival Ron Cake 60 years Cup</i>		
	The Rush	Hot Rock Carnival Club
<i>Class 2-6</i>	<i>Reserve Champion</i>	<i>Ann Tranter Memorial Cup</i>
	32 Fathoms Deep	Magnum Carnival Club
<i>Class 2-6</i>	<i>Champion</i>	<i>Mere Chamber of Trade Cup</i>
	Rusty's	Kipling Carnival Club
Majorettes		
	<i>Drum Major</i>	<i>Paige Lawes Cup</i>
1	Merriott Majorettes	Merriott Majorettes
	<i>Costume</i>	<i>Reg and Brenda Lawes Cup</i>
1	Merriott Majorettes	Merriott Majorettes
	<i>Overall Champion</i>	<i>Stuart Lawes Cup</i>
1	Merriott Majorettes	Merriott Majorettes

A full list of prizes can be found on our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=mere%20carnival%20page>

From the committee, we thank all those who helped us with the carnival, volunteers and marshalls.

And finally, from me the Treasurer – a big thank you to the Committee, particularly the newcomers!

If you enjoy Carnival and want it to continue – please consider joining the committee, just let us know.

John Jordan  07840722835



# Teeandee Productions

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**Mob: 07799 325214**  
**[www.teeandee productions.com](http://www.teeandee productions.com)**

### Letter from the Churches

The nights are drawing in. There is already more night than day, and by the end of this month the clocks will have fallen back to give us those long dark evenings. Added to this, some of us won't be able to afford to make those evenings warm and cosy. As I look out of the window the sun is bright but the shadows are long and the air has a chill to it, and it is already hard to believe in those long hot days of summer.

Nationally and internationally, everything seems to be getting darker. The long summer of our Queen Elizabeth's reign is over, and what lies before us looks uncertain, fraught with many a danger. At the other end of Europe there is a war raging which could expand to engulf us all. And our hot summer, with wildfires, torrential rains, floods in Pakistan and elsewhere in the world, all indicate that global warming beginning to close its jaws; jaws that will consume us unless we take quick action.

But in a darkening world, we can still live well in caring for one another. There are, as always, temptations and opportunities. It is tempting to shut the night out, and huddle round our fires as long as we can. But the challenges that face us demand that we do the opposite, for they can only be faced in solidarity with everyone. One of Queen Elizabeth's great achievements was to establish a Commonwealth of nations that spans the earth. And one of our new King Charles III's priorities has been to alert us to the needs of our planet Earth. Together we can work out solutions to global warming: solutions that will partly be about self-restraint in our use of energy, and partly about new technology and developing new, sustainable energy sources.

The bright sun and long shadows bring to our gardens a different beauty from that of the other seasons. And this year there have been bright suns of progress. New telescopes have brought to light new truths about our universe, deep in space. And there have been several successes in harnessing thermonuclear energy, which is what powers the sun. One day (perhaps in a few decades) we may be able to light on earth a thousand little "suns" powered by hydrogen which is superabundant in the water of our oceans, producing helium, which is safe and inert and does not warm the globe.

The nights are indeed drawing in, in so many ways. But they are bringing closer that Christmas night when we will proclaim, "The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" and we will remember anew how the birth of a baby in dark and difficult times 2,000+ years ago brought the possibility of new life and new hope for all people.

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*The Revd Judith Thompson and Ross Thompson, St Michael's Church, Mere*

Church Contact and Service Details*The Parish Church St Michael's the Archangel:*Priest in Charge: TBA [vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk)

Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎ 863424

Mr Richard Wilson 📞 07966 244373

PCC Secretary: [office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk)

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Harvest Festival
9 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Parish Communion
16 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Parish Communion
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Parish Communion
30 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:00 16:00	BCP Communion Benefice Service for Maiden Bradley's Patronal Festival (No service at St Michael's) Service for All Souls

*West Knoyle Parish Church St Mary the Virgin:*Priest in Charge: TBA [vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk)

Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall ☎ 830534 Mr Colin Seaford ☎ 830263

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sun	09:30	Lay Led Service
9 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	18:00	Harvest Service
16 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Matins
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sun	10:00	Benefice Service for St Michael's Patronal Festival
30 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	16:00	Service for All Souls at St Michael's, Mere

*All Saints Church, Maiden Bradley*Priest in Charge: TBA [vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk)Contact: [diana@dianabourne.co.uk](mailto:diana@dianabourne.co.uk)

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sun	10:00	No Catch-up
9 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:00	Harvest Service
16 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:00	Morning Worship
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sun	10:00	Holy Communion
30 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:00 16:00	Benefice Service for Maiden Bradley's Patronal Festival (No service at St Michael's). Led by Archdeacon Alan Jeans Service for All Souls at St Michael's, Mere



*The United Reformed Church*

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

Mere Contact: Elaine Laurence ☎ 0740 3845711 [elainelaurence57@gmail.com](mailto:elainelaurence57@gmail.com)

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sun		TBC
9 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	Rev. S. Litchfield (Holy Communion)
16 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	Rev. J. Thompson
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sun	11:00	Mr Dudley Coates
30 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	Mr. D. Burfitt

*The Roman Catholic Church: St Mary Queen of Peace.*

St Mary's has been closed and ALL liturgies are now at SS Luke and Teresa South Street, Wincanton BA9 9DH.

Parish Administrator Jo Bentley: ☎ 01963 34408 [hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk](mailto:hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk)

Contacts: Carole Marshall ☎ 861905 or John Fitzgerald ☎ 860867

Mere LibraryAs from Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October the Opening Hours are:

Monday: 10:00 – 12:00\* and 14:00 – 19:00

Tuesday: 09:30 – 17:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 12:00\*

Thursday: 09:30 – 17:00

Friday: 09:30 – 17:00

Saturday: 09:30 – 13:00

\* Volunteer operated opening hours.

*Sally-Ann Mere Senior Library Assistant*Booking Meeting Venues

Grove Building:	<a href="mailto:admin@grovebuildingmere.org.uk">admin@grovebuildingmere.org.uk</a>	☎ 0771 471 8625
Lecture Hall:	Sally Johnson	☎ 861063
URC Church Hall:	Mrs E Laurence	☎ 07403 845711

Mere Information

For full information on the businesses, organisations, societies, attractions and activities in Mere, together with current and back numbers of "Mere Matters", please visit [merewilts.org](http://merewilts.org)

### Rhyme Time

A fun, friendly and free session including a mix of songs, rhymes and movements designed to help develop babies and toddlers language and listening skills.

It is also a lovely chance for them to meet other children and learn new rhymes.

Whether you are mum, dad or granny we look forward to welcoming you with your little one. Held in Mere Library. Fridays 10:00 – 10:30.

Noelle Dennis [rbdennis@msn.com](mailto:rbdennis@msn.com)

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**Ibni Rocks is performing and raising funds for Brainwave Charity.**

**We invite you all to come to support Brainwave Charity.**

**Sunday October 16th at Mere Lecture Hall**

**Doors open: 5pm for Concert starts 5:30pm ends 7:00pm**

**Ticket cost: £5.00 \*Free for children**

**This is a family friendly concert. Free popcorn for the children!**

*Tickets will be sold at the door.*

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### Friends of Mere Museum

The Friends are eagerly looking forward to their first event of the new season, which is a QUIZ! It will take place on Friday September 30th at 7 for 7.30 p.m. in the Grove Buildings. You're very welcome to come in ready-made teams of four if you wish, OR just turn up on the night and we will make sure you find a place on a team. There are lots of Quiz prizes to be won, and a special raffle prize too. Refreshments will also be available, making this a really very enjoyable and worthwhile event. We look forward very much to seeing you on the night!

*Jenny Wilding* ☎ 860908 [jenny@flaxmill.org.uk](mailto:jenny@flaxmill.org.uk)

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### Mere Amateur Dramatic Society - Play Reading



We don't believe in hanging around! Rehearsals for 'A Ladd in Mere' - this year's pantomime - are now well under way and the tickets will be on sale from mid October! It's already clear that it is going to be an excellent production - with of course a Beautiful Princess, a Very Good Baddie, a Charming Hero and a Wonderful Dame, not to mention lots of youngsters bringing all sorts of mischief to the whole adventure! All is well up to our usual standard and so not to be missed! The performance dates are Thursday to Saturday, November 17th - 19th at 7.30 p.m. with a Matinee on Saturday 19th at 2.30pm, at our customary venue - the Lecture Hall - and tickets will be available from both The Library and Sprout and Flower, or by phoning 01747 861257 or 07539329798, or at the door. Keep a look out for posters around the town with all the details, but don't leave it too late to book though. There is usually a huge demand for tickets and we find that pantomimes sell out very quickly. Book early (as 'they' say) to avoid disappointment!

*Jenny Wilding* ☎ 860908 [jenny@flaxmill.org.uk](mailto:jenny@flaxmill.org.uk)

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### Mere Film Shows / Moviola - October

On **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October** we will be showing **Phantom of the Open** [12A] with Mark Rylance. A few reminders that doors will open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Free tea and coffee are provided beforehand and we hope to see as many of you as possible so that we can continue!

Tickets are available from the library or please contact me below to arrange a ticket. Please note that my email address was incorrect last month – my fault not the editor's! My apologies if you have tried to get in touch and the correct one is now below.

*Rosie* ☎ 861567 [rosiejb37@gmail.com](mailto:rosiejb37@gmail.com)

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Everyone is welcome to join us for a Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October** from 10.30am at 14 Lovage Way (Home of Jean and Colin Kantharia); and, a date for your diary - 7.30pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November Quiz and Pudding Evening in the Grove Building .

We hope you will enjoy these events, not least because in doing so you are supporting Suchana's lively and life-enhancing programmes for some of the 'left-behind' Adivasi children in West Bengal, India. Being able to learn to read and write in their own mother tongue (something we take for granted) is new for these Kora and Sanali speakers and helps enormously not only in basic communication, but also in building self-confidence and self-belief. The skills and teaching materials which Suchana has developed for first language teaching are now being shared with other similar projects elsewhere in India and even with government schools, thus spreading the benefits of Suchana's good work more widely.

At the same time as this important pioneering work, Suchana continues its core programmes of early learning classes, activities, library work and basic computer skills as well as ongoing support for children of all ages, and reaching outlying villages through its mobile library.

*Judith Thompson* ☎ 860553, Chair, Mere Suchana Support Group  
[judithvthompson@aol.com](mailto:judithvthompson@aol.com)

### Mere Historical Society

The Autumn Programme begins this month with "Environmental Archaeology", by Dr. Ines Lopez Doriga, on **Tuesday 4th October** at 7.30 p.m. in the Grove Building, opposite St. Michael's Church. This is followed by a morning talk on **Tuesday 11th October at 10.30 a.m.** on "The Forward family and its connection to Mere", by Richard Backhouse, in the same location. It may also be useful to look ahead to the 1st of November, when Mark Forrest will give an evening talk on "The Victoria County History of Wiltshire: Mere and Zeals", again at 7.30 p.m. in the Grove building.

Details of the Programme to the end of December 2022 can be found at [www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk).

We look forward to welcoming back our current Members as well as Non-members for whom a charge of £3 is payable on the door. Joining the Society costs just £10 and gives entry to all talks. Anyone wishing to join may do so at any of the forthcoming talks or may contact the Membership Secretary at [membership@merehistoricalsociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@merehistoricalsociety.org.uk).

*Peter Landymore* ☎ 228819 [plandymore@outlook.com](mailto:plandymore@outlook.com)



[merehistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://merehistoricalsociety.org.uk)

### October Short Walk

Meet in the Surgery Car Park at 2.00 p.m. for a short walk of about 3 miles around the paths of Mere

*Janet Way* ☎ 860884 [jwaywitsend@gmail.com](mailto:jwaywitsend@gmail.com)

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### Fair Trade in Mere

It is always exciting at this time of year to receive the Autumn/Winter catalogue to see what new goodies and beautiful crafts will be on offer. I will be holding my usual sales in time for those special gifts for Christmas when you will have the opportunity to buy something 'to show you care' this Christmas and help the crafts folk and smallholders around the world struggling to feed their families. In the meantime, why not pick up a catalogue from one of my stalls or contact me if you would like one

*Janet Way* ☎ 860884 [jwaywitsend@gmail.com](mailto:jwaywitsend@gmail.com)

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### Christmas Box Appeal 2022

In 2021 the FSCI distributed nearly 8000 Christmas boxes to orphanages, refuges, isolated elderly and disabled people in Bulgaria. 88 of these were collected from Mere.

Thank you to all those who donated boxes last year. It was great to have new interest, and I hope those people enjoyed making up their first box.

A Christmas box is a personal and individual present and it may be the only gift received by the children and families.

Thank you also to the ladies who donated their very colourful blankets knitted during the lockdowns.

If you would like to donate a Christmas box for this years appeal leaflets will be available at the post office and St Michaels church in Mere. Alternatively the leaflet is available to view or print from [www.fscinet.org/Christmas-box](http://www.fscinet.org/Christmas-box). The website has ideas for filling your box and has a short film of the boxes being delivered to children in 2021.

Christmas boxes can be dropped off at St Michaels church or Little Myrtle, The Fields, Mere by November 24th.

*If you need your box to be collected, please call  
Shelley Hunt ☎ 228590 or 07810 216833.*

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### Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group



Our September meeting was once again well attended and we were joined by Gill Grout a

Mere resident who told us about her Nursing and Midwifery Career and now her well-deserved opportunity to enjoy her delightful Art and textile Art which she brought to show us.

As we have all felt the sadness following the death of our Monarch Queen Elizabeth 11 who was also the Patron of Mother's Union, we felt we would like to share memories, some personal, of meeting Queen Elizabeth and our new King Charles 111 in years gone by in his role of Duchy of Cornwall as Mere has so much Duchy Land and farms. We will have a social afternoon with cake and tea on **11<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30pm in The Grove Building.**

We have a very short service followed by our speaker and we once again invite anyone who is interested in The Mother's Union to come along and you will be made most welcome.

*Carol Lord ☎ 861923. Christabelle Kriticos ☎ 861065 Christine Marsh ☎ 861212*

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### **Read Easy Blackmore Vale North.**

#### **Free 1-2-1 coaching for adults who struggle to read.**

##### **Poems for a Pound**

Come and hear poems read aloud, buy a printed poem,

Read it yourself, can you learn the poem by heart,

Could you recite it aloud to your family?

Learn more about Read Easy and

Join the challenge on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 10am -12 noon** at

1 Boar Street, by kind permission of Jean Young

Judy Phillips 860835

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## Mere Bowls Club

Wednesday 14th September dawned wet and cold, but a small party of hardy members gathered at the green to prepare the area for the match of Bowls Wiltshire (Men) vs Bowls Wiltshire (Ladies) at 1.30 that afternoon. The green was cut by both Tony Rankin and Richard Coombs with a single mower, so that all would be regular and not dual patterned that happens if we use two mowers.

Jeff and Ann Hurt put in some sterling work in getting the bar set up, along with Chris Coombs, and seeing to the green surrounds. Tony McDonald, Don Butchers, Derick Fisher and Ann Hurt erected the large gazebo belonging to Carol and Jeff Vigers that was to be used by the men as their changing room, the ladies of the county being given the combined mens and ladies changing rooms normally used by the club. The folding chairs from the Catholic Church that were stored overnight in the club, by John FitzGerald, were then laid out in the gazebo for the men to use in the afternoon.

The game was played in a good spirit with John FitzGerald taking several photos for the archives. After the game we all adjourned into the pavilion for a meal prepared by Carol Vigers, Angela McDonald, Mary Hooper and Anne Sidford. Karen Guy did a great job in organising the raffle and Chris Coombs ran the bar like a professional, with Chris Isgrove and Ann Hurt running around doing all sorts of jobs, all under the watchful eye of Mary Butchers.

All in all, a good day was had by all which, along with the men winning by 44 shots, made the day very memorable indeed.

For more information on the club or if you have a general interest in the game of Bowls, please contact Don Butchers on [don.butchers@btinternet.com](mailto:don.butchers@btinternet.com) or via the telephone on 01747-860775.

*Don Butchers – Club Secretary* ☎ 860775 [don.butchers@btinternet.com](mailto:don.butchers@btinternet.com)

 [hugofox.com/community/mere-bowls-club-10160/home/](https://hugofox.com/community/mere-bowls-club-10160/home/)

## Get more from your concessionary bus pass

Great news – we've removed the 9.30am time restriction on all concessionary bus passes, until Friday 31 March 2023.

This means that you can travel on any buses in Wiltshire for free at any time of the day.

There are many wonderful places to explore across our beautiful county, especially as summer turns to autumn. Our Connecting Wiltshire travel website has several ideas and includes a journey planner if you prefer to design your own bus days out.

